

Necropolis 1051

Chapter 1051: Mission

“The entrance to other planets lies beneath this corpse,” Lu Yun said as he continued to scan the creator. “This should be one of the few safe zones in the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. The entity that brought us here wanted to give us enough time to prepare.”

Pausing, he continued, “It’s not like there’s no danger here either. This is just one of the safer spots, relatively speaking.”

The vengeful spirit that he’d collected earlier had been an unbelievably dangerous existence. He’d defused the danger only because he wielded hellfire. If it’d been anyone else on the scene, they would’ve lost their mind and soul to the spirit’s possession.

“Are you ready?” He looked at Ying Luo.

The girl nodded gently.

“We might run into others from your palace beyond this point, so we should split up,” Lu Yun suddenly mentioned.

Ying Luo paused, then asked, “Are you really not a secluded disciple of Inception Palace?”

“No.” Lu Yun shook his head.

The girl fell silent, then said hesitantly, “But... you have cold black fire. Even if we run into more from my palace...”

“Ai,” Lu Yun sighed. “Who knows what your monarch is really thinking?”

“I understand, I won’t tell them about you.” Sorrow dawned in Ying Luo’s eyes. This might be their final farewell.

Though she hadn’t spent a long time with Lu Yun, the things she’d experienced in such a short period of time were incomparable to anything she’d ever undergone. Unbidden, she’d formed a strange attachment to this wanderer.

Lu Yun strode into the mountain instead of saying anything. He didn’t want to dally with anyone in the chaos. It was better to take swift and ruthless action before Ying Luo’s dependence turned into real emotion.

There was only one entrance in the depths of the creator’s corpse—an enormous cavern. This was also where the bloody river flowed out of. Lu Yun walked on air and took point as Ying Luo kept a careful distance and followed his every step. She kept looking at him, but he never turned around.

Their world spun the moment they entered the cavern.

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“You’ve finally come!” a resonant voice sounded in Lu Yun’s ears.

“...you’ve been waiting for me?” Lu Yun asked at the entrance to the cavern. He knew who was speaking—the dead creator.

“Yes, I’ve been waiting for you,” the creator’s voice sounded again. “Endless eons and the birth and death of endless realms have happened before finally seeing you.”

“Do you know me?” Lu Yun frowned slightly.

“No, but I knew you would come.”

“I would come? ...destiny?” Lu Yun started. He quite hated the idea of fate or anything forced upon him that had nothing to do with him.

Such as the Tome of Life and Death.

In Fuxi’s tomb, he’d forced the treasure to submit and fully become his possession, erasing all other influences within it. But now this fallen creator from the Age of Myth spouted off some nonsense that made him very uncomfortable.

“Not destiny and not a mission,” the creator said. “Everything is according to your own decisions.”

“You’re not going to say that I was a ruler of your realm in a past life, are you?” Lu Yun chuckled.

“...I don’t know, I have been dead for too long. I don’t have many memories left,” the creator seemed to sink into a contemplative stupor. “You have no destiny or mission, but I do.”

Humm.

A loud hum traveled through the air as a massive collection of thoughts flooded into Lu Yun’s mind. If it wasn’t for him possessing the Tome of Life and Death and the six paths of his nascent spirit, his consciousness might have been obliterated by the intrusion.

“In these countless aeons, I continuously wore away at my own memories and everything unrelated in them to keep my heritage intact!

“This is the complete heritage from qi realm all the way to creator realm!

“This was my mission, to await your arrival and deliver it into your hands...” The creator’s voice echoed in Lu Yun’s ears before fading away.

He stood still in this patch of darkness, silent for a very long time.

“In this part of the tomb, everything having to do with immortal dao has dispersed. Only this bit of its heritage remains.”

Though Lu Yun had gleaned some clues about the immortal dao of the mythological realm from the creator’s corpse, it’d displayed only fragments of information. The heritage that he’d just been gifted was complete.

Even though the immortal dao of that realm was different from the current immortal dao, Lu Yun could absolutely use this framework to derive what the immortal dao’s equivalent of the chaos and creator

realm should be. Even the great emperor realm was incomplete with numerous flaws. Lu Yun could use the mythological version to perfect it.

Thus, his first task after returning to his own world was to revert the great emperor realm to empyrean realm!

Though the curse on great emperors was broken, the title was still too weighty for the current world of immortals.

“What a damn shame I came too late... There was only the complete immortal dao left in his memories and nothing else,” Lu Yun sighed.

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Drip.

Drip.

Drip.

The sound of water dripping traveled into Lu Yun’s ears as the darkness slowly dispersed around them. He saw Ying Luo’s back.

She’d walked ahead of him at some point in time, her figure tall and lithe, long black hair tied up by a green vine and swaying freely on her back. She padded forward, slowly disappearing into the distance.

Lu Yun sighed gently. “I’m finally inside.”

Nerves gripped him in the next second as killing intent flooded out of the barren landscape. There was an enormous tomb in the center of the terrain.

“Tomb of the Vaststar World King!” He read on an enormous obelisk in front of the tomb.

A world king was a title, not a cultivation realm. Whoever bore it was the ruler of this world.

“The tombs here... are a bit similar to the ones in the world of immortals!” Lu Yun raised an eyebrow in surprise.

Chapter 1052: Tomb of the World King

The world of immortals had been turned into an enormous tomb that buried its denizens. There were numerous other tombs that forested its surface, laying to rest the immortals that’d died in battle.

All of that was very similar to the Tomb of Heaven and Earth in front of Lu Yun.

He hadn’t been certain of the similarities at first, but when he saw the tomb of the world king, a disquieting chill gripped his heart.

He’d once thought that the tombs appearing after the great war in the world of immortals was perhaps the work of the chaos creatures, or the handicraft of some secluded experts in the world of immortals.

But it now seemed that the great war a hundred thousand years ago was intricately tied to the war that destroyed the mythological realm. Perhaps the same mastermind or group was behind it all.

“Building tombs for their fallen enemies and preserving their heritage... what did the mastermind want to do?” Lu Yun took in a deep breath and strode forward, heading for the tomb of the Vaststar world king.

There was no sight of Ying Luo—she’d plainly ended up in another world. Signs of life began to appear in the one that Lu Yun was in. Other chaos creatures that’d entered along the bloody path as well could be seen again.

If Lu Yun and Ying Luo could pass the tests from earlier, then so could other geniuses of the chaos. In fact, they’d probably passed with flying colors.

Anyone that’d arrived here was extremely cautious, maintaining a safe distance between themselves and everyone else. No one brashly approached the others, plainly not trusting anyone else present.

Lu Yun began to worry about Ying Luo despite himself. She seemed to easily give out her trust—she wouldn’t have asked him for help otherwise. In an environment like this, she would easily end up worse for the wear.

But if she reveals her identity, she’ll be immediately surrounded by more protection than she knows what to do with. Unbidden, Lu Yun thought of Ying Luo’s stunning countenance. A soul lamp already burned for her because she was a disciple of a sacred palace. Even if she died here, she’d return to life through it.

Soul lamps were interesting treasures. Lu Yun had been deeply taken with them the first time he’d heard their name, but he had yet to see one, much less learn how to refine one.

As for the little fox, he hadn’t been worried about her from start to finish. She was much safer here than he was. It was only a matter of her putting others in their places; no one would be able to harm a hair on her head.

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“You, come here,” rasped a hoarse voice to the left of Lu Yun. He turned around to see a being with a pale face and a horn growing out of its head leering at him.

It was in the chaos realm—a very ordinary cultivation realm. But to a second level mortal realm ant, chaos realm was an unfathomable height they could never aspire to.

“I told you to get over here!” Frosty killing intent flashed in the speaker’s eyes when Lu Yun didn’t move.

“Okay.” Lu Yun lifted his head and peered at the speaker’s face, seeming to commit his appearance to memory. Tendrils of jade green energy floated to the fore as he walked over to the speaker.

“The power of inception... you’re a disciple of the Inception Palace! Wait, wait! Don’t come over here, I don’t need you anymore!” The speaker jumped with shock. He hadn’t thought that a random second level mortal realm ant he’d summoned would be a disciple of a sacred palace!

Disciples of these factions wouldn’t die. Even if he killed this ant here, the ant would revive and come back for him. He’d be the one dead in the end.

The chaos realm expert with the single horn on his head and an ashen complexion didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He plainly wasn't a run-of-the-mill talent since he could make it here—there was also a powerful faction behind him. But in front of a sacred palace, his faction was just an ant colony.

“You wanted me to come over here, so how could I be so rude as to refuse?” Lu Yun smirked with a half smile. “You, go over there and see what dangers there are around that tomb.” He pointed commandingly at the tombstone in front of the tomb of the Vaststar world king.

Though the biggest drawback of his fake identity was that the gig would be up in front of any Inception disciple, it was an enormous guarantee of safety otherwise. In front of him, color drained from One-horn's face until he resembled a piece of paper.

“I, I...” His eyes darted around the scene.

“I've already committed your likeness to memory and know who you are,” Lu Yun chuckled. “You're Qie He of the blackhorn race, aren't you? The blackhorns certainly have some balls to be challenging a sacred palace!”

Scattered all over the chaos, his thirty-six golden warriors had soaked in knowledge like a sponge. They'd recorded the characteristics and strength of all major races and factions in the chaos, as well as taken down the names of any noteworthy characters.

Qie He was a genius of the blackhorn race, but one that didn't merit attention from the sacred lands or palaces. For some of the factions that the golden warriors had joined, however, he was a person of great interest.

“You!” Awful realization flitted across his face. He didn't have a soul lamp. If he died here, he'd be dead for good.

“Well? Go on then. Or do you want the blackhorns to go extinct?” His expression taking a frosty bent, Lu Yun summoned the image of a dragon that shimmered with faint gold.

“A chaos dragon!!” Qie He shrieked as horror stabbed into his gut, freezing him from inside out. He didn't dare twitch a muscle.

“Hurry along now,” Lu Yun commanded with growing irritation and a frown.

“Under, understood!” Not daring to hesitate after seeing the image of a chaos dragon, Qie He cautiously advanced toward the world king's tomb.

Though the image of chaos dragon didn't necessarily mean the wielder was a chaos dragon, it surely did mean that he had much to do with the dragons. Chaos dragons were so infamous that their name alone terrified many factions in the chaos.

Other chaos creatures hidden in the surroundings also trembled and shook, deathly afraid of offending Lu Yun. It'd be one thing if they could kill this Inception disciple, but since he possessed a soul lamp, whoever dared attack him would eventually be the one to die a grisly death instead. Anyone having to do with the culprit would also be subject to crazed vengeance.

The consequences were too much to bear.

Those in the tomb were very different from the three who'd wanted to eat Lu Yun and the others. Those three had been creators abandoned by the nine sacred lands, and them wanting to eat a chaos dragon meant they'd made up their minds to betray the sacred lands. They would only have to hide in the part of the chaos that was affected by the energy of the worlds to stymie any revenge from the sacred palaces.

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"There's no danger here," Qie He sighed with relief after reaching the world king's tomb and inspecting it carefully. However, he turned around to meet Lu Yun's shocked gaze.

A zombie arm was probing out from a fissure next to the tomb. It grabbed Qie He's ankle and dragged him inside.

Chapter 1053: The World as a Burial Chamber

Though Qie He had reached peak chaos realm, he couldn't put up any resistance to the zombie and was dragged in shrieking and flailing around.

And then, he suddenly cut off mid scream.

Dead.

He died the moment he entered the tomb. Shortly thereafter, a series of mind numbing chewing sounds trailed out from the tomb.

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"The zombie ate him... the zombie!" Lu Yun frowned ferociously. Hellfire could control ghostly beings, but couldn't do anything to zombies.

Ghosts were completely dead, but in the chaos, zombies fell in the category of the living. They weren't completely dead, and as such hellfire couldn't exert control over them. In this moment, Lu Yun gave up exploring the tomb of the world king. With his current level of strength, he'd be courting death if he set foot into a tomb like that.

Though he had a million ways to restrain zombies, the one that'd appeared just now was too strong. It was at least creator realm, and this was still the fringes of the tomb. Who knew what kind of monsters would appear if he ventured into the depths?

With these concerns brewing in his mind, he turned on his heel and left without another word. He wasn't a real disciple of a sacred palace. An attack from a creator could absolutely obliterate the six paths of his nascent spirit in hell.

There was only one life available to him. Lu Yun didn't have such an unrealistic view of his strength that he would make a play for something so out of his reach. Plus, he'd gotten a clear overlook at this world—there was no presence of the immortal dao here. Everything having to do with it had been destroyed, so whatever was in that tomb wouldn't bear a mission of waiting for him with a message or heritage.

His sentiments weren't shared by the others on the scene. A creator realm zombie was invincible to Lu Yun, but there were many creators here as well as immortal lords. They carefully drew near to each other to form an alliance to crack the tomb.

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"The entrance to other worlds is here." Lu Yun arrived at the edge of his current planet and looked at a tiny fracture in the ground.

The worlds within the Tomb of Heaven and Earth were comparable to the burial chambers of a regular tomb. They were all linked to each other somehow. For instance, the tomb of the Vaststar world king was the equivalent to an outer-coffin. This type of layout that used worlds as tombs and tombs as coffins was a level of sophistication beyond Lu Yun's abilities.

"These burial chambers are most likely outer worlds outside of the main part of the tomb. They're relatively safe as long as we don't provoke whatever's residing inside. The true danger is in the center of the Tomb of Life and Death, that huge burial pit of ten thousand—no, a hundred million lives!"

Lu Yun casually flitted through burial chamber after burial chamber, having no other choice but to flare the power of inception as he traveled. If he didn't do so, he would've been grabbed to be cannon fodder at any time.

After a while, many in the burial chambers came to know that a second level mortal realm disciple of Inception Palace was among them. There was nothing for it, Lu Yun had to grin and bear it, continuing with his false identity.

Most of his usual methods of disguise were useless in front of creators and immortal lords. He was too weak. Therefore, he adopted the most high-handed attitude he could muster and didn't back down even when encountering other sacred palace disciples. He was cocky and arrogant to the extreme and sometimes went so far as to fight with the sacred palace disciples he ran into.

I'll take a moment to change into another appearance after a few more burial chambers. My Shapeshifting death art has absorbed the clear currents of the chaos, so only sovereigns will be able to see through it. Lu Yun set foot into the next world as he mused over his next course of action.

"Junior brother Lu Yun!" A delighted voice traveled into his ears the moment he entered the next burial chamber. Dressed in a vividly green skirt, a joyful Ying Luo appeared next to him. "I heard people say that an Inception disciple had appeared and thought it must be you!"

Lu Yun paused and looked blankly at the sudden reappearance of the girl.

"Junior sister, who is this?" a slightly aloof voice sounded behind Ying Luo.

Lu Yun followed the question to its owner—a woman with a frosty expression in a black combat outfit. She was a creator, but much stronger than the creators he'd encountered before.

"Senior sister, he's, he's..." Ying Luo abruptly realized she'd been too brash, but she hadn't been able to control her emotions.

When she separated from Lu Yun, she'd immediately started drowning in depression and helplessness. Though she'd run into her senior sister afterward, she hadn't been able to forget the young man with a composed smile.

Hence, she'd thrown thought of everything else out of her mind and ran straight to him the moment she saw him.

"Lu Yun, secluded disciple of the Inception Palace." He didn't blame Ying Luo, and this wasn't his first time interacting with sacred palace disciples, so what did one more occasion matter?

"A secluded disciple of the Inception Palace?" The black-outfitted woman looked at him up and down.

"Senior sister, it's all thanks to junior brother Lu Yun that I didn't die outside," Ying Luo whispered and tugged at the woman's hem. "Junior brother Lu Yun, this is my senior sister Leng Xian."

"Greetings to the senior sister of Creation Palace." Lu Yun raised a cupped fist salute, then smiled. "I'm off to search for others of my palace, so I'll be taking my leave..."

He turned to go. Ying Luo chewed on her lip, but didn't say anything to keep him.

"Hold on." Leng Xian suddenly blocked Lu Yun's way. "This is the central zone of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. It's very dangerous for you to be here alone. I know where a few senior brothers of Inception Palace are, I can take you to them."

Lu Yun stiffened ever so slightly while Ying Luo paled. She'd ruined everything for Lu Yun. Leng Xian was a creator, there was no room for him to decline her good intentions.

"So you're here huh, kid?!" An aggravated voice cut across the scene. "I lost by a single move to you just now, so I don't accept that at all! How can the combat arts of my Burgeon Palace be inferior to your Inception Palace, huh?! We're going for another round!

"Ah, senior sister Leng Xian of Creation Palace, and junior sister Ying Luo!" A foppish dandy wearing white robes suddenly popped out of nowhere, pausing when he saw Leng Xian and Ying Luo.

Though Ying Luo had concealed her face, she usually took on her current appearance when out and about. There were also many who'd seen her real face, including this dandy.

"Junior brother Wang Shu of Burgeon Palace." Leng Xian frowned slightly to see this frivolous fop.

Wang Shu was the youngest son of the Burgeon monarch, also second level mortal realm. She hadn't thought that the palace monarch would be willing to risk his son in this tomb!

"Kid, losing by a move means nothing, let's go again!"

Whoosh!

Wang Shu withdrew a longsword and pointed it at Lu Yun.

Chapter 1054: Zombie Sea

Wang Shu was one of the sacred palace disciples that Lu Yun had run into earlier. Though the boy looked like a useless fop, he was actually obsessed with cultivation. Running into someone of the same cultivation level as him sparked his interest and he pestered Lu Yun endlessly for a match.

When Lu Yun defeated him, he pestered endlessly for a rematch.

Lu Yun's random jaunt through a number of burial chambers was in large part because of this Wang Shu.

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Wang Shu was also in the tomb on a solo expedition, like Lu Yun. He looked at the Inception disciple with ardent eagerness for another fight.

"It's not a good idea to spar here." Lu Yun could already sense something different about this burial chamber. It was much more dangerous than other ones. "Why don't we go for another round after we leave?"

Wang Shu was the stickiest kind of toffee; Lu Yun could neither kill him nor get the boy off his trail. It was the first time ever that he felt such a deep sense of helplessness.

"After we leave?" Wang Shu shook his head. "You're a secluded disciple of Inception Palace. How am I supposed to find you if you hole up in your palace once we're outside?"

"No no no, we're having another fight right here, right now. There's no way that Burgeon combat arts are less than Inception's!"

Champing at the bit, battle intent flared in Wang Shu's eyes.

"Senior brother Wang Shu, why don't we spar?" Ying Luo stepped forward and summoned her snake-like chain.

Wang Shu looked at Ying Luo, first trembling, then beaming brightly.

"Sure!" His eyes shone with excitement. "Junior sister Ying Luo is the strongest of our generation. I've long wanted to witness your techniques!"

Compared to Lu Yun, Ying Luo had a far greater reputation. Not only was she the foremost beauty of the sacred palaces, she was also the strongest of everyone in the second level mortal realm—no one could put up a fight to her.

"Ying Luo!" Leng Xian tsk'ed disapprovingly when she saw that the two were about to face off. "Wang Shu. There's something terrible lying in wait in this burial chamber. Even I won't be able to protect myself if it awakens. You better not fight here!"

"What's the worst that can happen? We'll come back to life through the soul lamps if we die, it's no big deal," Wang Shu grumbled.

"You can resurrect from the soul lamps, but what about your treasures?" Lu Yun snorted with laughter. "Your sword, for instance. If you lose it here, you'll lose it forever."

Wang Shu blinked, then quickly hugged his sword close to him. This was an ultimate connate treasure, one on par with the Bell of Chaos. He never would've gotten his hands on it if not for being the young lord of Burgeon Palace.

"And, dying is easy, but what if you can't?" Ying Luo added mischievously. "If that thing catches you and won't let you die, you'll have to stay here forever."

Wang Shu trembled in dread while Leng Xian's eyes went wide with astonishment. She hadn't thought that the biddable Ying Luo would ever be able to say something like this to scare Wang Shu. She glared reflexively at Lu Yun, this was plainly the boy's bad influence!

Ying Luo also realized that she'd said the wrong thing and shrank in on herself, sticking out her tongue.

Wang Shu stared agog at them all.

Lu Yun felt the force of Leng Xian's unfriendly glare, but he didn't say anything.

"Alright, it's too dangerous here, far more dangerous than we think. I'm taking you to your palaces, so don't go wandering off now." Leng Xian frowned. "Those of the six palaces are all within this burial chamber, let's head over to them."

Her tone brooked no disagreement.

It wasn't just the six sacred palaces, everything that'd entered the Tomb of Heaven and Earth was congregating in this burial chamber. There was another large tomb here acting as a coffin. One would reach the heart of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth beyond this burial chamber and the millions that had been buried here.

The creation seed was there, and so was the fortuitous opportunity to ascend beyond the chaos realm.

Paling, Ying Luo struggled to conceal her emotions. She didn't know what to do now.

Lu Yun's expression was as usual, but he quickly ran through possibility after possibility to get him out of this predicament.

"Careful!" He suddenly hopped forward and yanked Ying Luo back.

At the same time, numerous white arms shot out from the earth like tentacles, waving and grasping at the air. Leng Xian reacted swiftly and hacked down at the arms with cutting sword energy, cutting them all to pieces.

"There's a zombie pool ahead filled with all sorts of zombies, be careful!" Cold sweat beaded her forehead.

Zombie pools were exceedingly terrifying landmarks. They looked the same as everything else, but countless zombies were buried within. However, they were unique in that they didn't attack anything outside of the pool.

If it hadn't been for Lu Yun's quick reflexes in pulling Ying Luo back and sending Leng Xian on the alert, both of them might've been mired in the zombie pool.

“What’s going on? This wasn’t here when we arrived.” Leng Xian looked darkly at the churning soil in front of them.

“Space is disorderly in this burial chamber.” Lu Yun’s eyes narrowed and he made a few quick calculations. “The world here is completely dead, but there’s a bit of spatial energy left that keeps changing. The direction you just came from is no longer what it was.”

A dragon sleeps in mountains coiled, those deathly cliffs with mysteries roiled.

Lu Yun chanted silently, his eyes briefly lighting up with golden light and the image of a luopan flashing through them.

“The road ahead is inaccessible now, this is no longer a zombie pool, but a zombie sea. Everything within fifty million kilometers is a zombie sea.”

“Can’t we fly across it?” Wang Shu shuddered. He was dead certain that if it’d been him in the lead just now instead of Ying Luo, Lu Yun would’ve never saved him.

“Fly across it? Why don’t you give it a try?” Ying Luo flicked a sideways glance at the now mute Wang Shu.

“If it’s just a zombie pool, we could fly across it at the fastest speed possible. But if it’s a zombie sea... then we really can’t,” Leng Xian took a deep breath in. “Let’s go back and try another way. The three of you need to stick close to me!”

Chapter 1055: Crossing the Zombie Sea

Lu Yun remained unmoving, his eyes fixed on the boundless zombie sea in front of him. Though the terrain in front of the group looked like the same dusty earth that could be found anywhere else in the area, it was a heaving sea of zombies to his Spectral Eye.

“This zombie sea connects us to the heart of the tomb,” he murmured as he looked further into the land ahead. “If we can figure out a way to cross it, we’ll reach the central zone before anyone else.”

Wang Shu flushed hotly at Lu Yun’s words. Reach the core of the tomb before anyone else? Didn’t that mean they then stood a greater chance of claiming the creation seed and the opportunity to ascend beyond the chaos?

Even Leng Xian’s heart pounded with excitement.

For palace geniuses like Leng Xian, Ying Luo, and Wang Shu, the Tomb of Heaven and Earth was just a training ground, a chance to see the world. They might gain something if they were lucky, or have to revive through a soul lamp if not.

Immortal lords and eternal overlords had come; there were even a few sovereigns hidden among the crowd. If those great personages fought with everything at their disposal, everyone below their level would have to take shelter. The ripples from their clashes alone would turn even creators to dust.

But if Lu Yun’s group could enter the heart of the tomb before everyone else... then they yet stood a chance. As she considered the possibility, Leng Xian didn’t think of notifying her sacred palace—this was a time when personal considerations ran first and foremost.

“Do you mean what you say, that this leads straight to the heart of the tomb?” Leng Xian stared fixedly at Lu Yun. She wouldn’t mind giving it a try if there really was a chance to reach the central area of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth first. She’d have no regrets even if she died in the attempt.

“I do.” Lu Yun nodded. “The heart of the tomb is a huge pit that buries all of the beings from that mythological realm. This zombie sea is something formed from its leaked energy. But... how are we to cross the sea?” He frowned slightly.

“What are zombies afraid of?” Ying Luo suddenly asked. “This kind of zombie doesn’t dare leave their habitat, so there must be something here that they’re afraid of. If we find it, we’ll be able to cross the sea with it!”

Leng Xian’s eyes widened and she looked incredulously at Ying Luo, as if she didn’t know her junior sister. From what she knew of Ying Luo’s mentality and maturity, she would’ve never thought of approaching the problem this way. In fact, even Leng Xian hadn’t considered this angle.

Not all of the second tests were the same. Lu Yun and Ying Luo had met the mosquitoes of the Blood Sea, but the others had encountered something else.

“Are zombies afraid of the cold?” Ying Luo looked earnestly at Lu Yun. She still had a pile of realm monster core fragments in her storage treasure.

“No,” Lu Yun responded firmly. “Do you remember those ice zombies?”

Ying Luo pouted, unhappy with the response. Lu Yun ignored her reaction and sat down on the ground, closely observing the zombie sea in front of them.

“Is there really a zombie sea here?” Wang Shu walked up to him and stared blankly at the empty expanse of barren land in front of them, not seeing anything out of the ordinary.

“You’ll find out for yourself if you take a few steps forward,” Lu Yun responded with a half smile.

Wang Shu hastily scuttled backward.

“Zombies are afraid of a lot of things, but it’s a zombie sea in front of us. Water counters fire, but if only a single drop of water enters a sea of fire, it’ll instantly evaporate.” Lu Yun frowned. “I know why the zombies don’t dare come ashore, but that thing isn’t very useful to us. We also need to move as quickly as possible. This zombie sea will shift to another location in a short while, and if an eternal overlord encounters it...”

“So we need to think of a way forward as soon as possible. If we really can’t, we’ll just have to go with the flow,” Leng Xian finished his thought.

She stood three steps ahead of Lu Yun and was able to glimpse a never-ending sea of zombies. She fully believed what the Inception disciple said, that they could reach the heart of the tomb through this sea. She could even feel the presence of the creation seed in the bottommost depths of the zombie sea.

“I have a way to cross it, but the risks are great,” Lu Yun suddenly offered.

“What is it?” Leng Xian, Ying Luo, and Wang Shu lit up.

“We can turn ourselves into zombies.” Lu Yun smiled mysteriously.

“Turn ourselves into zombies?” Wang Shu shuddered.

“Do you mean that we should disguise ourselves as zombies and pass through the sea that way?” Ying Luo’s eyes gleamed.

“Yes.” Lu Yun nodded. “I can refine a talisman that will exude the same aura as zombies when we stick it to ourselves. Zombies aren’t very intelligent, so they won’t be able to tell that we’re different from them if we’re in this vast sea.

“But...” he paused. “I’ve observed the zombies within this sea attacking and eating each other. We’ll be attacked by them too even if we disguise ourselves as one.”

There were too many zombies in the terrain ahead. A zombie sea was precisely as it sounded, a sea with zombies crammed together instead of water.

“Then we’ll find whatever it is the zombies are afraid of and bring it in with us!” Ying Luo once more mentioned searching for whatever it was the zombies were afraid of.

“It’s the stones here.” Lu Yun grabbed a random stone that looked like the bottom of an aged and dull pot. “These stones should be the fallout from a pill cauldron explosion. That pill cauldron was able to restrain this particular kind of zombie, and that characteristic has been transferred to these stones.”

He threw the stone into the zombie sea and noted that the zombies shied away from the intrusion, unwilling to be in close proximity with it.

“What a pity that almost all of the cauldron’s power has dispersed. What little remains can’t control the zombies, just inspire a disgust that makes them unwilling to be near it.”

“That’s enough.” Leng Xian nodded. “If you really can disguise us as zombies and we bring these stones with us, that should see us safely past the zombie sea!”

“Then let us pray that no zombie kings have been born in this sea.” Lu Yun pursed his lips. “My disguise can fool ordinary zombies, but it won’t fool a zombie king.”

It was impossible that a zombie sea this large didn’t possess any zombie kings. Zombie kings were entities that stole opportunities from life itself to revert yin yang, so that they could return to the land of the living. They possessed the same intelligence as normal people and were beyond the scope of zombies.

They surely existed in the zombie sea.

Chapter 1056: Submarine

“We’ll just have to take this gamble.” Resolution flashed through Leng Xian’s eyes.

Sacred palace disciples were very willing to take risks if they had a goal in sight. If they failed, they’d lose only their cultivation and treasures. But if they succeeded, they would reap untold benefits.

“There’s another way, we can refine the stones into a tiny boat and take it across the sea,” Ying Luo suddenly suggested. “If we’re disguised as zombies, the real ones in the sea won’t sense the presence of the living and therefore, won’t attack us.”

Standing next to Leng Xian, her skin crawled when she looked at the bobbing masses of zombies. Since she was a young girl, she wanted to avoid diving into them if at all possible.

“That’s a thought, too.” Lu Yun nodded. “But we still need to find a way to get past the zombie kings in the zombie sea. And whatever we do, we need to hurry. The zombie sea is about to disappear.”

“I’ll be in charge of refining the ship.” Leng Xian waved a hand and collected a bunch of gray stones scattered over the ground.

“That’s enough for the ship, we should also mix other materials in with the stones. They may evoke disgust from the zombies, but they’re also very fragile,” Lu Yun quickly added.

“Mm, I see.” Leng Xian was a master refiner. Tongues of flame shot out from her hands and swiftly refined the stones in her hand. At the same time, a steady stream of ultimate ingredients poured into the pile of stones. Meanwhile, Lu Yun focused on refining talismans—Shapeshifting Talismans.

He didn’t have anything else with which to make living beings exude the aura of zombies; only the talismans could turn them into one. However, he remained a little uncertain if his talismans would be able to fool the sovereigns of the chaos.

Though Shapeshifting changed the fundamental nature of something, it was still a combat art. As such, there were flaws in combat arts and Lu Yun wasn’t willing to bet his life like this at such a crucial moment.

He quickly created four Shapeshifting Talismans—he wasn’t going to leave Wang Shu behind.

Ying Luo and Wang Shu shuffled around, having nothing to do. They first looked over at Lu Yun, then at Leng Xian. Ying Luo was standing next to Lu Yun while Wang Shu stood awkwardly off to the side.

“Wait!” Lu Yun quickly stopped Leng Xian when he saw that she was about to really refine a boat.

“What is it?” She’d already refined the prototype of a boat, but immediately ceased her actions when she heard Lu Yun.

“Don’t make a real boat. The zombie sea is going to keep shifting around and if I could see through it, so can others. A boat on the surface of the sea is too big a target and will be easily attacked.” He pointed a few times at the air and delivered a small piece of paper to Leng Xian. On it was drawn... an Earth submarine from the twenty-first century.

“Use a kind of material that can repair itself and hide the aura of those stones. Don’t overly expose us,” he said.

If they used a type of material that constantly repaired itself to hide the aura of the stones, they wouldn’t elicit automatic avoidance from the zombies. They would be able to lower the submarine quietly into the zombie sea, and once the zombies jostled the surface of the submarine, the aura of the stones would leak out.

That would make the zombies halt their attacks against the group, and when the material recovered to conceal the stones again, the submarine would be able to proceed through the zombie sea without causing a disturbance.

Lu Yun also refined Size Manipulation and Shapeshifting formation talismans. He wanted to make multiple layers of preparations, first to turn the submarine into a zombie and then to shrink it down as much as possible. That would conceal them from the eyes of others to the greatest extent of his abilities.

Everything would be perfect then.

Leng Xian stared blankly for a while after hearing Lu Yun's explanation before chuckling ruefully.

"I finally understand why my junior sister is like this now," she mumbled and began refining a submarine according to Lu Yun's instructions.

Ying Luo flushed beet red again.

"Bro, you're going to become a public enemy of the six sacred palaces at this rate." Wang Shu bumped his shoulder against Lu Yun's, envy and admiration written all over his face.

He could naturally read Ying Luo's attitude toward Lu Yun. Though she wasn't the type to withdraw from anyone she didn't know, she would never be so friendly with a man. And now she was blushing for Lu Yun?

If the young men of the six sacred palaces learned of this development, they'd probably mob him or line up to duel him!

Lu Yun shifted uncomfortably from side to side and looked at Ying Luo. She hastily ducked her head and avoided his eyes.

Leng Xian completed her refinement—creating a submarine that looked like a giant fish. It was fifteen meters long and quite spacious on the inside.

"Will this do?" she asked Lu Yun.

"That's perfect. You guys go inside first." He attached three Shapeshifting Talismans to their bodies.

They took immediate effect, turning the trio's humanoid forms into zombies. The unique aura of a zombie wafted from their bodies.

"This... I'm... a zombie?!" Ying Luo looked at herself, wide eyed. Though she was still herself, she could clearly sense that due to the talisman's effect, her body structure had shifted into that of a zombie's.

"How can this be?" Leng Xian stared agape at herself as well, turning her hands over and over again incredulously. "You've transformed us into zombies on a fundamental level! But we'll return to normal once we take off the talisman. This is amazing! Is this a talisman bestowed by the Inception monarch?"

"There's no time for explanations, the zombie sea is about to leave. Move quickly, I still need to modify the submarine." Lu Yun slapped a talisman onto himself. He couldn't just use the actual death art in front of them.

Leng Xian snapped out of her daze and quickly herded Ying Luo and Wang Shu into the submarine.

Lu Yun then brought out the two formation talismans and applied them to the submarine at the same time, turning it into a zombie the size of a speck of dust. With everything complete, he burrowed into the submarine as a streak of light.

Since the submarine was a dead item, a treasure, regular talismans wouldn't work on it. One had to use a formation talisman to achieve the same effect.

"Go!" Leng Xian urgently propelled the treasure once Lu Yun was aboard, darting into the zombie sea the second it vanished.

Chapter 1057: Two Chaos Dragons

"We seem to be completely isolated from the outside world in here. Can we turn back into our true selves then?" Wang Shu fidgeted restlessly. It was incredibly unbearable to be a zombie, like there was something extra hanging over his body.

"No." Leng Xian swept a glance over Wang Shu. "Zombies are uncommonly sensitive to the presence of the living. No art to conceal our presence will dupe their senses, much less the mere restriction I've put up around us. If you turn back now, we'll be instantly attacked by them."

Wang Shu sat down with resignation.

"Strange, why can't we see any of them? Or have they all run away after we entered the zombie sea?" He looked at a water curtain in the middle of the submarine, one that served as a window to the outside world.

All was gray and murky around them, no signs of any zombies to be found. It was as if they were piloting through a gray sea.

"The gray stuff you see are zombies." Lu Yun glanced at Wang Shu. "I used two formation talismans to turn this treasure into a zombie the size of a particle of dust. Zombie visual abilities shouldn't be able to make us out."

He'd invested the submarine with quite a few failsafes. The stones that repulsed zombies were one, concealing their movement was another. Layering plan over plan was the safest way forward for them.

"The scholarship of the Inception monarch knows no bounds. He is the strongest powerhouse of the six sacred palaces, alright!" Respect bubbled in Leng Xian's tones.

Ying Luo looked at Lu Yun with great surprise. By now, she was beginning to think that Lu Yun was really a secluded disciple of Inception Palace.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

An indeterminate period of time into their travels, a violent quaking traveled their way. The submarine began to toss and turn wildly through their environment; the water curtain inside displayed the current situation around them.

Seven figures hovered over the zombie sea and flew at great speed, attacking the zombies within the sea as they did so. The powerful shaking was a result of their attacks.

“No! That’s the seven immortal lords of the earth elemental sacred land! They’re here as well!” Dismay crossed Leng Xian’s face when she saw them.

Though she was only one level beneath immortal lords, the difference between them was so great that they couldn’t be put into words. Her refined treasure was a paramount ranked item, but it wouldn’t withstand an attack from an immortal lord.

“We’re going down!” She steered the submarine into a deep dive.

“No, we can’t!” Lu Yun quickly stopped her. “There’s a dreadful existence at the bottom of the zombie sea. If we head down, we’ll expose ourselves to it. The talismans I’ve made won’t deceive it!”

Leng Xian had also once spoken of a terrible thing sleeping in the center of the burial chamber, that none of them would make it out alive if it were awakened. It looked like whatever she’d spoken of was at the bottom of the zombie sea.

“We need to go, that thing’s already been disturbed.” His expression tightening, Lu Yun spoke at a rapid and frantic clip. “Don’t look down, our gazes will attract its attention!”

“How dare a mere seven immortal lords attempt to cross the zombie sea! Those of the nine sacred lands are seriously idiots!” Leng Xian cursed and steered the submarine ahead at full speed.

If it wasn’t for Lu Yun shrinking the submarine to a dust particle, their speed in the zombie sea would be at least a hundred times slower. There was no water in this sea, just boundless zombies. A speck of dust could freely dart between them without running into any impediment whatsoever.

“Aouu aouu aouu aouu!!” A large roar suddenly exploded in the distance.

An enormous black shadow appeared on the water curtain inside the submarine. It was a giant zombie that looked like a black dragon! The moment it appeared, it charged at the seven immortal lords in the air.

“A chaos dragon!!” Lu Yun gaped at the black dragon.

The zombie was plainly a chaos dragon, but something had eaten two of its heads, leaving it with only three tails and twelve claws.

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“What is that?!” gasped the seven immortal lords.

A black dragon bore down on them with an open mouth the moment it cleared the zombie sea.

Boooooom.

Yellowish-brown flashed through the air as they flung up an enormous shield through combined efforts. It just barely managed to take the dragon's blow.

"We need to go! This isn't something we can go up against!" Scared out of their minds, their joint shield collapsed after that first hit.

Smack!

Three dragon tails whipped from behind them before they could react. One of the immortal lords screamed with anguish before bursting into a cloud of bloody mist. A second black dragon then shot out of the zombie sea and swallowed the other six.

Seven immortal lords, lofty beings superior to creators, were eaten shortly after setting foot into the zombie sea.

Inside the submarine, Lu Yun and the others swallowed hard. Their throats felt as dry as a desert.

"Thank, thank goodness we didn't try flying across the zombie sea," Wang Shu mumbled.

"Only idiots would think of crossing it by air." Sitting by Lu Yun, Ying Luo flicked a sideways glance at Wang Shu. He scratched his head without a word.

"We need to be careful, the seven immortal lords impacted the outermost layer of our formation talismans just now. The treasure will return to its regular size soon," Lu Yun said.

Of the two formation talismans he'd attached to the submarine, Size Manipulation was on the outside and Shapeshifting was on the inside. Caught in the ripples of the attacks from earlier, Size Manipulation was crumbling away and the submarine was slowly expanding.

"Alright, I see." Leng Xian nodded.

"Those two black dragon zombies were two chaos dragons... Were they chaos dragons from the outside, or ones born in the mythological realm?" Lu Yun suddenly asked. Since he cultivated the Dragonquake Scripture, he was inordinately interested in chaos dragons.

"Um..." Ying Luo blinked. "Legend says that the chaos dragons flourished before the mythological realm existed. They were the strongest race in the chaos, but something happened that caused them to be cursed with limiting their numbers to nine.

"According to various records available to us, the curse of the chaos dragons might very well have something to do with the mythological realm."

Chapter 1058: Fearsome Beast

A curse on the chaos dragons reminded Lu Yun of the curses aimed at the dragons of his world. Chaos dragons were undoubtedly a very special existence within the chaos. Their Dragonquake Scripture was the foremost method of the realm and something that all six sacred palaces wished to obtain.

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The submarine slowly expanded in the zombie sea until it was fifteen meters long again. Thankfully, that still didn't make it particularly eye-catching or large, given the enormity of the sea. There were numerous zombies here that were easily several hundred or thousands of meters tall.

With the Shapeshifting talisman formation still operational, the submarine was camouflaged as a fish zombie and swam for the other shore of the zombie depths. Their current speed was more than a hundred times slower than before and they were continuously buffeted by other zombies. This was when the stones from the shore came into play—the surrounding zombies always left after taking one taste of the submarine.

Watching their progress through the water curtain, Lu Yun witnessed figure after figure speed through the air above them. Plainly, many more had discovered the sea's existence and determined its secrets. Of them, the weakest was immortal lord; there were also quite a few eternal overlords in their midst.

They weathered plenty of zombie attacks along the way; progress was difficult for even the eternal overlords. The battles outside rocked and upturned the zombie sea, making things even more hazardous for Lu Yun and the others.

"An eternal overlord's made his move, he's fighting someone!" Leng Xian suddenly stopped and peered intently at the water curtain within the submarine.

In the distance, two enormous beings faced off against each other. Two torrents of terrifying ripples traveled in all directions as both flared their power.

The water curtain was an ultimate treasure bequeathed to Leng Xian by the monarch of Creation Palace. It could survey everything that took place within a five hundred thousand kilometer radius, remaining unnoticed by even sovereigns if they didn't carefully scan their premises.

This was a great treasure of Creation Palace, and it being in the hands of Leng Xian was an indicator of the Creation monarch's high hopes for her.

"That's a bone dragon." Through the water curtain, Lu Yun carefully observed what was opposing the eternal overlord. "A bone dragon formed after the death of a chaos dragon!"

He opened the Spectral Eye and scanned the bone dragon's death information through the water curtain. This was a chaos dragon that'd died in the battlefield of the mythological realm!

When the mythical realm expanded to the point of threatening the continued existence of the chaos, its denizens hadn't taken the intrusion lightly. They raised armies to punish the impudent enemy, trying to stop it from expanding further or even destroy it. Though the energy of the realms could kill chaos creatures, there were many treasures in the chaos that could withstand it—such as the purple qi that Tianqi guarded.

When the chaos creatures collected enough purple qi, they charged into the realm.

What followed was an extremely harrowing and gruesome war. High casualties were inflicted on both chaos creatures and denizens of the realm. This zombie sea was a result of those battles!

The zombies here weren't local inhabitants that'd died when their realm perished, but those that had died in battle. Boundless resentment, battle intent, and death qi congregated in this spot to form the zombie sea.

Within the realms, zombies were rejected by both heaven and earth, exiled to wander between the boundary of living and death forever. Thus, the zombies here weren't zombies of the chaos.

The two chaos dragons that they'd seen earlier were also dragons that'd perished during that war. On the other hand, the bone dragon in the skies was no longer a zombie—it was completely dead.

Someone had killed it once more after it turned into a zombie. Transforming it into a bone dragon made from the chaos dragon's skeleton. Though it lacked the strength it wielded in life, it was still a dreadful eternal overlord!

"Circle around them, w-we need to circle around them!" Wang Shu stammered as he looked at the eternal overlords in the air.

"We need to go!" Lu Yun roared and bounded up to the helm, attempting to redirect the submarine.

He was too late.

Violent tremors rose from the bottom of the sea, as if something was floating up from its depths. The submarine began to slowly rise in the next moment as well, since it was hanging to the thing's body. Lu Yun spotted an enormous zombie lizard through the water curtain.

This zombie was a three-headed lizard, the same one that he'd encountered on the bloody path!

What set this one apart was that something had bitten off the head in the center, leaving a ghastly wound and numerous injuries inflicted on the other two heads. It was five hundred kilometers long and seemed to be the king of the zombie sea.

Despite its bulk, it nimbly shot into the sky after burrowing out from the zombie sea bed. The tiny submarine swayed to and fro on the lizard's body, taken along for the ride as the lizard hurtled toward the bone dragon. Ferocious roars blasted out from its mouths—it was also an eternal overlord.

Inside the submarine, Lu Yun and the others turned purple as they held their breaths, deathly afraid of being discovered by this terrifyingly fearsome beast. There were also other zombies hanging off of its body, but they seemed to be used to the sensation as they remained crawling over the lizard's body despite the happenings.

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A three-headed lizard, a bone dragon, and an eternal overlord of a sacred land formed a triangle in the air over the zombie sea.

The mutual hostility that the bone dragon and lizard bore for each other was plain to see. The energy ripples from the bone dragon had infuriated the lizard, resulting in its emergence to join the fray.

"The three-headed lizard should be a being of the mythological realm... that's why it's at odds with the bone dragon. If my guess is right, it's also the culprit behind the chaos dragon turning from a zombie into a bone dragon," Lu Yun whispered.

“Mmhmm, mmhmm, mmhmm.” Ying Luo bobbed her head up and down, agreeing with Lu Yun.

Leng Xian and Wang Shu however, kept their lips firmly sealed shut. Hold a conversation right under the nose of an eternal overlord? They didn't want to die just yet.

“These two monsters don't seem to be whatever's beneath the zombie sea. Can it be that it's a sovereign beneath us?” Lu Yun continued.

Ying Luo continued nodding in agreement while Leng Xian and Wang Shu wanted to cry.

Chapter 1059: Jin Gushen

Tension in the air stretched on unbearably. If the three eternal overlords fought each other, then the submarine parked on the three-headed lizard would be the first casualty in the line of fire. Thankfully, they were each wary of the others and didn't make a move.

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Jin Gushen, an eternal overlord of the metal elemental sacred land, looked like he'd seen a ghost. He shook and shivered as he looked at the two beasts in front of him, wanting nothing more than to slap himself silly. If he could do things over again, he would've never chosen to enter the heart of the tomb through the zombie sea.

Though it was a shortcut, it was also a road that led straight to death.

Unmitigated, certain death!

“How can I be so damn unlucky?? I thought a great gift had fallen into my lap, but it was just the prelude to a deathtrap!” He wanted to cry, but could find no tears to shed.

There was no other choice available but to continuously release his own power. If he showed any sign of weakness, the other two beasts would immediately set aside their differences and rip him to pieces.

Thankfully, the two seemed to bear more than simple unfriendliness toward each other, which was the only reason why he was still alive.

“Keep calm, stay calm...” Jin Gushen took in a deep breath and blazed with piercing light from his eyes, staring straight at the two beasts.

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“It's him!” Lu Yun yelled when he got a clear look at Jin Gushen.

“Jin Gushen of the metal elemental land, he's here too!” Leng Xian's expression went through a variety of changes when she identified the eternal overlord.

Jin Gushen looked very youthful, like a young man, with a hint of boyishness in his face. That meant that his real age wasn't very old. Though there was no concept of time in the chaos and thus no passage of time, living beings were still familiar with the concept.

Jin Gushen was so very young. He hadn't even weathered a chaos tribulation since his birth, but he was already an eternal overlord! Not even the sacred clan of the six sacred palaces could achieve such a feat.

He was also different from Chi Wuxia and Huo Shentong. Chi Wuxia was also an eternal overlord, but they'd swiftly reached their current heights due to support received as a result of their connections with the sacred palaces.

Jin Gushen was just an ordinary disciple of the metal elemental land. He had absolutely nothing to do with the sacred palaces and his cultivation achievements were the result of his own efforts. He was a genius, a truly stunning genius.

The six sacred palaces had tried to recruit him a few times, but to no avail. The huge fight that would break out over him when he became a sovereign could already be foreseen. However, based on current circumstances, he was dead without a doubt.

Since he hadn't joined a sacred palace and wasn't that popular in the metal elemental land, he didn't possess a soul lamp or even anyone willing to guard his lamp. If he died here, that would be the end of him.

Lu Yun naturally recognized the genius—one of his golden warriors had joined the metal elemental land and formed a close relationship with Jin Gushen.

I can't let him die here! Lu Yun grit his teeth as he kept his eyes trained on Jin Gushen's face. "We need to save him."

"Save him? We can barely save ourselves, how can we save him??" Leng Xian felt that Lu Yun had lost his mind.

"No, we're very safe here. Go down and sink into the zombie sea again. I have a plan!" Lu Yun took a deep breath. His thirty-six warriors were the equivalent of thirty-six replicas. His thoughts were fully imprinted into their minds and each of them was controlled by the six paths of his nascent spirit.

His warriors had fully assimilated into the chaos over the past fifteen years. Not only had he learned many chaos cultivation methods and knowledge, but he'd made many friends and enemies.

Jin Gushen counted among that list. The golden warrior that'd joined the metal elemental land had come under Jin Gushen's wing. The genius was both his friend and teacher, and now that he was in grave danger, Lu Yun wasn't about to sit idly by.

"But..." Leng Xian hesitated, not daring to move.

"We're a zombie right now and the treasure we're in is also a zombie! If we don't leave while we can, we'll be dead without question once they start fighting!" Lu Yun turned around and shouted at Leng Xian. "Dive!"

"I understand." Leng Xian paled, finally understanding the reason behind Ying Luo's changes. For a girl unversed in the ways of the world, it was impossible for her not to change after spending time with someone as domineering as Lu Yun.

Mentally preparing herself, Leng Xian steered the submarine behind another zombie and slowly detached themselves from the three-headed lizard. They plopped into the zombie sea without meeting real danger and swiftly melded back into the whole.

"You guys leave first, I'll go save him," Lu Yun sighed with relief.

“No!”

“No!” Leng Xian and Ying Luo spoke at the same time.

“You, you can’t go! It’s too dangerous!” Ying Luo panicked, grabbing onto his arm and refusing to let go no matter what.

“My junior sister is right. You’re only second level mortal realm and not even an ant in this zombie sea. You’ll be going to your death if you head outside!” Leng Xian also stood in front of Lu Yun. Since he was a secluded disciple of Inception Palace, she couldn’t let him go to his death.

“I owe much to Jin Gushen and can’t let him die like this.” Lu Yun was still staring at the water curtain. The two enormous beasts outside showed signs of temporarily joining hands so they could take care of the foreigner first.

During these fifteen years, the golden warrior that’d joined the metal elemental land had reaped the most for his efforts. It was all because of Jin Gushen, and the genius had saved the golden warrior multiple times.

“Also, I’m not an ant. These zombies can’t do anything to me. If it wasn’t for you guys... heh. I would’ve crossed the zombie sea a long time ago.”

Whoosh!

Black flames roared to life around him and concealed all traces of the living and zombie from Lu Yun. He seemed to be a humanoid pillar of flame, a dead thing without any ripples of life. His laugh descended in temperature and pierced the bones of the other three with cold.

“Cold black fire!” Leng Xian shrieked, understanding why Ying Luo tagged after Lu Yun all this time...

The monarch of Creation Palace had once said that if they met someone with cold black fire, they were to help him without reservation if he met with trouble.

“Let me help you!” she quickly offered.

“You guys not pulling me down would be the biggest help you can give to me.”

Whoosh!

With that, Lu Yun disappeared.

“Has he... has he always viewed me as a burden?” Ying Luo asked blankly, looking at where Lu Yun had vanished.

“No.” Surprisingly, it was Wang Shu who responded. “If he thought you were a burden, he would’ve tried everything to get rid of you.” He chuckled ruefully when he thought of how hard Lu Yun had tried to lose him in the other burial chambers.

Ying Luo bit her lip, a hurt expression flashing through her eyes. Leng Xian sank deep into thought.

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Hellfire obscured all signs of life from Lu Yun; even the water curtain in the submarine couldn't locate his form.

Instead of immediately heading for Jin Gushen, he first set up a tiny formation talisman and shrank the submarine back into a particle of dust before leaving with peace of mind. He'd shared trials and hardship with these people, and he was only human. He could save Jin Gushen at the cost of all else and would also do the same if Ying Luo met with danger.

To Lu Yun, Ying Luo was now his friend.

Jin Gushen, it's always been you saving me, now it's my turn. Fifteen years of friendship has gotta count for something, eh? Lu Yun sped toward the three eternal overlords. Since the bone dragon originates from a chaos dragon, then what I need to do is find its dragon pearl. Once I have it in hand, I won't need to be concerned with the dragon anymore, even if it's an eternal overlord.

Having once taken chaos dragon form, Lu Yun was naturally very familiar with them.

Though chaos dragons looked like three dragons smashed together, what with their three heads, three tails, and twelve dragon claws, they had only one core essence—their dragon pearl. The pearl contained all of the dragon's strength. If it was smashed, then the chaos dragon was crippled beyond help.

However, their pearl was the equivalent of a dao immortal's dao fruit. Normally hidden within the body, it was impossible to destroy.

Even if this dragon had turned into a bone dragon, its dragon pearl should still remain in perfect condition. If it was broken, then the bone dragon would be a pile of bone dust instead of the snarling specimen in the sky.

Since the bone dragon overhead was a skeleton, the pearl wouldn't be found in its body. It had to be hidden somewhere in the zombie sea—its nest, perhaps.

When his thoughts traveled here, Lu Yun utilized Shapeshifting to turn into a speck of dust and burrowed into the depths of the zombie sea right beneath the dragon.

A dragon sleeps in mountains coiled, those deathly cliffs with mysteries roiled! He chanted silently while pale golden light burst forth from his eyes.

Overhead, the gigantic bone dragon suddenly froze mid-pounce at Jin Gushen. It looked down, staring straight beneath it with its empty eye sockets.

The Dragonsearch Invocation was a part of the Dragonquake Scripture, the highest art of the chaos dragons. Even though the bone dragon was dead, the operation of its race's highest art wouldn't pass by unnoticed.

"Aoooouu!" Howling piercingly, the dragon grew rapidly smaller and plunged into the zombie sea.

Jin Gushen and the three-headed lizard looked at each other, not knowing what to make of the situation.

"So... it's just the two of us now." A great pressure lifted off his shoulders with the bone dragon's sudden departure, Jin Gushen smirked evilly at the three-headed lizard.

Chapter 1060: Soul Tears

Lu Yun didn't notice the bone dragon following behind him. It'd deployed a certain combat art to hide within a crowd of zombies and followed silently behind its target. Though he was currently the size of a particle, the ripples of the Dragonsearch Invocation were a honing beacon that led the bone dragon's consciousness straight to him.

To the dragon, there was no difference between dust-sized Lu Yun and regular-sized Lu Yun. Even though a layer of hellfire surrounded him, that still didn't conceal him from the bone dragon. The difference between their cultivation level was too great. One was second level mortal realm and the other... an eternal overlord.

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"Found it!" Lu Yun discovered a patch of empty space in the depths of the crowded zombie sea. A mountain of white bones sixty meters across floated within it, surrounded by something that looked like a boundary keeping the zombies out.

"There's... the presence of the living here? There's something alive?!" Lu Yun's jaw dropped. "Not just one, but two!! How is this possible?? How is anything alive in the zombie sea?"

He could clearly sense the presence of the living from the mountain of white bones. Taking a deep breath, Lu Yun cautiously touched the boundary in front of him.

A small ripple traveled across the barrier's surface as his hand passed right through it. Taken aback, he paused before setting foot inside the empty space devoid of zombies.

An exceedingly refreshing scent wafted into his nose, so revitalizing that he almost hummed with pleasure. Pure chaos currents could be found everywhere inside, seemingly nurturing something. Lu Yun focused his gaze and realized that the dragon pearl could be found inside the mountain of bone.

"No wonder the bone dragon's cultivation fell to eternal overlord realm. It released all of the power in its pearl to nurture these two beings." Unbidden, he strode over to the mountain.

Something that looked like a bundle of clouds rested in the center of the mountain. Two pale gold dragonlings slept quietly on the soft clouds.

"This!!" It felt like lightning had struck Lu Yun.

Two golden dragons!

Two. golden. dragonlings!

They weren't chaos dragons, just ordinary dragonlings, but he'd seen them before!

He'd brought back a dragonling from the dragon tomb in the North Sea of the world of immortals, and it yet remained in Dusk Province. However, its cultivation never progressed and it never grew bigger, still teetering about as a baby. Despite that, the dragon empress, Ghost Dragon, and Ghost Phoenix treated it with utmost respect, even fear and dread.

The two dragonlings in front of him were the exact same as the one in Dusk Province. Even their aura was the same, as if they were the same exact dragon!

“How... is this possible...” Lu Yun stared incredulously at the sleeping dragonlings on the clouds.

“Do you know him?” a soft voice suddenly sounded behind him.

Lu Yun jumped up and scrambled a few steps backward before looking in alarm at what’d walked in behind him. This... should be a woman. He looked upon a figure in a black silk dress, hair black as the night, but her arms and head of bone.

“You’re, you’re the bone dragon from earlier!” he said after a shocked beat.

“Yes.” The woman of white bone inclined her head. “The ripples from your Dragonquake Scripture returned me to reason.”

Flesh and blood slowly grew over her skeleton as she spoke, melding into her body and forming an exceedingly beautiful woman. Elegant and poised, she was plainly of noble birth.

“He is my child.” She pointed at the two dragonlings entwined around each other on the clouds.

“He?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Chaos dragons possess three heads, three tails, and twelve feet. Upon my impending death, I used the last of my strength to split him apart and save his life.” Her tone took a downward turn. “He is a chaos dragon no more.”

“You brought your child here... to fight?” Lu Yun frowned.

“It wasn’t a fight, but a war. A war that came all too suddenly upon us,” she sighed. “He was not yet born when war descended. As the last powerhouse of the chaos dragons, I had to lead my clan to protect our home.

“I gave birth to him before I died and split him into three, dispelling the aura of a chaos dragon from him. That is how he evaded that awful curse. If it wasn’t for the curse, perhaps... perhaps we might’ve won,” she murmured.

“You did win, in reality. The mythical realm was destroyed and the chaos creatures survived,” Lu Yun offered.

“No, we lost. We all lost!” She lifted her head and looked up at the boundless sea. “Whether it was us or that mythical realm, we all lost.”

“Is there... a third party?” Lu Yun probed.

The woman shook her head without responding.

“Well... alright, then why is there only two of him? Where’s the third?” Images of the little dragon in Dusk Province came to his mind again. The little dragon was Liu Qingmiao’s playmate and also trained with Aoxue. The blood dragon had named it Aoxin.

"I don't know where the third him has gone either... After my death, I protected my child with the last of my instincts. I don't know where he's gone..."

"The presence of the Dragonquake Scripture on you is proof that you have a great kinship with us. I beg of you, take my child and save him from this world devoid of light!" Pleading and great suffering suffused her eyes.

The Dragonquake Scripture was the ultimate method of the chaos dragons and the foremost method of the chaos! Simply possessing the Dragonquake Scripture enabled Lu Yun to awaken her reason and gain her trust.

She didn't know what'd happened in the outside world or that there was a three-eyed man who'd learned the Dragonquake Scripture and plotted against the chaos dragons.

"The third him is with me." Lu Yun mused, "I don't know why he ended up with me, but he is well and truly by my side, with my clansmen."

It would seem that there was far more than met the eye with the dragon tomb in the North Sea. The dragonling had seemed to be using the tomb's power to fortify himself. Then... who had built the tomb and what was it meant for? Was it really just to curse the dragons?

Or was the dragonling absorbing the fortunes of dragonkind so he could become a chaos dragon again?

Just who built that tomb?

Lu Yun felt like his brain was about to explode. If only he could find Ghost Dragon or Ghost Phoenix! But they'd disappeared after departing from the dragon tomb.

"He, he's with you? That's wonderful. I hereby gift my dragon pearl and everything here to you. I only ask that you protect him." The woman murmured, "I do not hope that he becomes a master in the chaos, I only pray that he lives on."

Lu Yun opened his hand to allow a tiny door to swing open. A golden dragonling that looked the same as the two sleeping in the clouds darted out of the doorway.

"Aooooouaaa!" Freezing with surprise for a split second, the dragonling pounced on the woman with croons that sounded like both laughter and tears. Though he'd been split into three, the three bodies shared one consciousness. The two sleeping dragons were also him.

"My child, my child! It really is you!" The woman hugged the little dragon tightly as tears flowed out of her eyes as two trails of smoke. She was just a skeleton now, her physical body an illusion and her tears formed by her soul—soul tears.

"Aouu aouu aoo!" The little dragon turned around and sobbed at Lu Yun. "Saoove... h-her!" He formed the two words with extreme difficulty.

"Okay." Lu Yun nodded.

The woman remained unmoving, still crying smoky tears and hugging the tiny Aoxin to herself. Meanwhile, the bundle of clouds gently floated upward and entered the Gates of the Abyss. Aoxin's

body underwent drastic changes as it did so. Since he was a creature of the realms, he wasn't afraid of its energy, a fact that transferred over to his other two bodies.

"Senior, I can help you return to life." Lu Yun looked at the woman.

"I cannot leave." She shook her head. "If I leave, my clansmen here will go extinct and be swallowed by the other zombies."

"But your child..." Lu Yun frowned.

"He has his life ahead of him. I... I am already dead," she sighed. She'd originally wanted to use her dragon pearl to help Aoxin be reborn, but her son was alive and well. The death energy that filled her dragon pearl was no longer appropriate for him.

"If I am dead, I should guard those of my clan who have died." Her physical form began to fade away.

"Do not say that you can bring me back to life, that is a taboo in this tomb. If you speak of it, you will be plagued with bad luck. I do not wish for my child to be affected by it.

"I am already dead. I am content as long as my child remains alive." She returned to her skeletal form and backed out of the area.

"Maooooommy!!" Aoxin burst into heartrending sobs and flailed wildly to catch up to the woman.

"Mommy, mommy!! S-save her, please please please save her..."

Aoxin had never spoken in all these years, but forced his draconic mouth to form human language at this time. It was the human language of the world of immortals, not the chaos.

"I know you can, you can save her. Please save her..."

He reached out with two foreclaws, trying to cling to the warm embrace that'd appeared endless times in his dreams. But his claws connected with nothing, no answering warmth. There was only empty nothingness.